

## “How to Accomplish God’s Objectives in Your Life”

Ephesians 6:17-20

Two offensive weapons:

1. The Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God

“I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?” Jeremiah 32:27

“With man this impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” Mark 10:27

“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.....as far as the east is from the west, so far he has removed our transgressions from us.” Psalms 103:1-3, 12.

“Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us, on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.” Hosea 6:1, 2

2. Pray in the Spirit – the power of God

Six requirements for prayer in spiritual warfare:

1. Continual, faithful, and disciplined praying.

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.” Colossians 4:2

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Principle: “Praying always” means taking everything to God in prayer.

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the Earth.” Colossians 3:2

Principle: “Praying always” helps us to view our lives through an eternal perspective.

2. Varied and appropriate praying

Principle: We are called to pray with “all prayer and supplication.”

Principle: Our prayers should be both general and specific.

Why should our prayers be specific?

1. Sometimes we don’t know what we really want
2. Sometimes we don’t know what we really need

Principle: Every part of our lives is to be bathed in prayer.

Different kinds of prayer:

1. Prayers of prevention
2. Prayers of protection
3. Prayers of rebuke
4. Prayers of dismissal

### 3. Spirit-led praying

Principle: We are to pray “in the Spirit”.

What is praying “in the Spirit?” It is allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray. It is also allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through you as you pray.

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but he Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.” Romans 8:26, 27

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” Jude 20.

There are two supernatural events that take place when we pray “in the Spirit.”

1. The Holy Spirit tells us what to pray.
2. The Holy Spirit energizes our prayers

### 4. Watchful praying

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Mark 14:38

### 5. Persevering praying

Principle: To pray “with all perseverance” means to stick to it and not quit.”

Why are we to persevere when we pray?

1. It shows what I really care about.
2. It allows God to work on me.

“Prayer is not getting man’s will done in heaven; it is getting God’s will done on earth.” Robert Law

Principle: Prayer is not so much changing God's mind, but knowing God's mind.

6. Bold, intercessory praying

Principle: We are commanded to pray "for all the saints."

Principle: A spiritually healthy believer is devoted to the welfare of others first.